

A company of God's people Praying for Kos

June 2009

Dear Friends

First we must give thanks again for the prayers offered up for us in and around Europe, and for all your encouraging words. These are our great sustenance together with the word of God. **However, the season has started in a rather despondent** manner, whilst the first two weeks of May seemed relatively busy, since then the tourist numbers have nose dived. With many hotels less than a half to a third full. The cafes and Taverna's are very quiet, this causes the Greeks to be particularly agitated, over and above many nations the Greeks love their money. Many of the boat operators face bankruptcy. Many of the day trip boats are only managing to go out one day in five.

The church scene here also is very disappointing, work starts and church gets put on hold for six months, sadly the **Pastor Babis** is not available now for six months i.e. until the end of October, leaving the church without a leader. Because of bad planning and what does not seem good direction from the **Pastor in Athens** a handful of Greeks are meeting in one hotel and a handful of tourists in another. Sadly our feelings are that this will not lead to any growth in the church here on the island, as God is not glorified.

Alec has found it very difficult again this month without Glyn, especially with the unexpected **death of Glyn's Uncle**. However, we are hoping that we will be reunited on the 11th June, although we could well say when the going gets tough the tough get going, and our great joy is that the Lord expects those who love Him to love Him in the difficult times too. We could well quote Paul's words to the Philippian church **Php 4:11 Not that I speak in regard to need, for I have learned in whatever state I am, to be content**, Of course, it is easy to say we are

content when everything is rosy around, Joseph is a classic example, between the years of 17-30 much time was spent as a slave or in prison, yet the bible tells us that he never complained once. So we will not complain but thank the Lord for the experience.

We would ask special prayers for Stephen and Mary Calhaun who are our prayer partners with the Hellenic Ministries in Athens as Stephen's aunt and uncle were tragically on the Air France flight from Rio to Paris recently.

Mission Board work / Tracting.

We have been blessed by the fact that so far the authorities have made no further comments about the board or our literature display. As we have said before the number of tourists is dramatically down, even so more than 2,000 copies of the PCK have been handed out, it was interesting one evening driving through town **Alec spotted a waiter** standing at the entrance of his café reading one, and two of the Greek church members have said they have seen people reading the tracts in town. However, it does seem that people are hardened to the gospel more so this year as the number of refusals has been quite high. Again this month there have been a good number of contacts, **a good number of LFU**, especially from the Eastern European countries have been received. **Of the contacts this month the best would** seem to be **Walter who was from Brugge** he told me he was 70 years old and a Mathematician, he said there is more than one way to make a mathematical calculation but only one true answer. He had read much on religion in recent years and he believed there must be one true God, but was it really the God of the Bible. Needless to say, I tried to convince him that he should seek after this God with all his energy. At the same time as I was speaking to him, **a Dutch lady called Rene** said her church in **Eindhoven went out each Saturday giving out tracts**, so she got talking to Walter. Walter took a SOH, Four Messages of Salvation, a JG and other literature. The remainder I will try and keep brief, **Harold and his wife from Munich** stopped, Harold said he was an Evangelical but said his wife was RC, however, I am not sure that he knew Jesus as Saviour; **they took a SOH and other tracts.**

Rhys and Henk from Eindhoven, Henk said his brother was in Christian Mission in Sao Paolo, however, I think it may have been RC. Henk certainly was not sure of his faith, but he was **happy to receive a**

Brugge, (we do not mean the water in Brugge to be blest). Also all the tracts that are put out around the hotels and cars.

No 5 Prison – That the Holy Spirit will cause those in the **prison to read the bibles** that are given to them, and that the word of God will find a resting place in their hearts.

No 6 Helpers – **Olga as she has a busy life** between her family needs and evangelism. **Brenda who is here** at the moment give her strength and vibrancy to keep going amongst her Limes Disease that she suffers from. Also due to be with us in **July are Jacqui and Mark.**

No 7 Future – **Alec has been on his own for three and half months** this year, and with the arrival of our next grand child in the next 20 days or so, the situation here of the **church group and its future**, our own family needs and the **Open Air Mission** need to have someone to run the **Bible Exhibitions next year** that the Lord will make our future very clear.

As we close we ask for SPECIAL prayers for Margaret Alec's sister as she has recently been taken into the Royal Marsden Hospital in Surrey, as she requires an operation on her liver, she has been suffering with ongoing cancer for a number of years. That the Lord's will, be revealed to all.

As we close again thank you for all that receive our prayer letter, and pray and give encouraging words. Another difficult month has nearly past and how we have learnt that old American Spiritual 'One day at a time sweet Jesus'.
May the Lord bless you all.

Alec and Glyn

Lord for having died for his sins and having removed them. We are praying that we will be able to meet on a Tuesday for the rest of the season. We continue to see many of the others mentioned in earlier prayer letters. Follow up is always more difficult than our first meetings.

Prison– Again because of the seasonal work, it has been difficult to find someone to come to the prison gate with Alec, but we are pleased that **Johnnie one of the Greek** believers was able to come along and help with this, and we left with the prison wardens **20 Greek New Testaments and 5 Albanian**. The Warden said he would distribute them to any that had not received a bible. We are hoping to return in six weeks with a further batch of bibles.

Helpers – We were thrilled this month to have had **Chris Box with us from Kent**, a real encouragement for the time when Alec has been on his own. Chris had much enthusiasm and zeal, and Alec was very thankful for him. Chris was able to meet many people. As we write this prayer letter, Brenda has arrived a few days ago from Berlin and she is here for a while staying at an apartment in the town. Our prayer is that the Lord will greatly use her while she stays here.

PRAYER POINTS

No 1 Greek Newspapers - that the Lord will cause many to read the papers and that if any contact Babis the Lord will over rule.

No 2 Friendship – there seems to be a growing list, **Mickey, Seva, Louise & Aaron. Nico, Rafael, Hassan, George and Tina, Attila, Ahmed and friends, Satith.**

No 3 Church work/ Preaching/Ministry – That the Lord will continue to bless this work, at the **Continental Palace Hotel** and also the **Greek group at the Tritan Hotel** and that those meeting in **Kefalos will be encouraged.**

No 4 Mission board work – All the tracts that are given away, in the area of the board, and if the numbers are less the Lord will bless doubly, all those that have received literature and CD's. **Especially Walter from**

SOH and as he had a car journey to work each day he said he would play it on his cassette player. **Pauline and Pat** stopped from Peterborough they said they remembered **the Open Air Preaching there.**

Margaret lived near Wigston, Leicester her sister worked at the King's Centre where OAM have their annual conference, **Margaret accepted a SOH CD.**

Friedland came from Sneek, Holland he tried to convince Alec he was a Christian but I tried to encourage him that it was important to know that he was going to heaven, **he accepted a SOH.**

Kathleen stopped on a number of occasions said there was many Christians in her hospital where she worked, however, again her conversation seemed to suggest that because there were other Christians it made her a Christian. She was very happy to receive **a SOH CD and I** had to convince her that it was free as she wanted to pay. **Johnnie was a Military Instructor in the Greek Army** on temporary assignment here in Kos he found it hard to believe that Greek Orthodox people were not Christians seemed to be fascinated by the display of literature, took a tract and then **accepted a SOH CD.** However, his friend who was with him did not seem too happy when he accepted the SOH CD. **Andy a Hungarian from Budapest** got involved in a conversation, Andy had many questions to ask I tried to answer them as best I could he did have a good understanding of Christianity but he did not seem to be saved. He took literature as well as a **SOH CD and a UJ.**

Chris's contacts

Monday.

Greek/English paper delivery day. Travelled on the road to the hill village of Pili posting the papers where ever we found some houses. Few personal contacts were possible. Shop keepers were an easy target as were the garage workers we past. **Three ladies in the church and the priest** were spoken too but no bible could be found. Gave Greek tract and explained the Gospel as best I could. **Three people on a café one a Priest** (he asked me to stay for a drink), **I had a Greek Bible from Alec this time** so could show verse John 3:16 and explain relationship with Almighty God through repentance and Jesus Christ by acting and small English words, nothing new there then. Old lady on her bed in single room rose up a little to take the paper, I resolved to return to pray and try to read to her but she had company and I did not want to worry them. A

few others greeted when ever they were in their garden. Always well received. Lunch in a café Alec knew. **Witnessed to the lady who took Greek tract** and said to me “you are always happy” which was untrue but nice anyway and encouraged me to stay “winsome” in countenance. Four German couples eating in the café were spoken to and all took a German tract. The blokes were reading it straight away. Another Greek guy was given a paper as he left.

The following are extracts form Chris diary.

Group of Jews in 20's Mike spoke to me and asked if I was a Christian, I said I prefer to say I am a follower of Jesus as my Savior. He said the Pope had just visited his country to which I replied that he was not a Christian despite his claims. A surprised Michael listened while I explained briefly that the Pope puts himself between Man and God but only the Messiah is the Lamb of God that takes away the sins of the world

John and Angie from near Glasgow. Very angry and opposed to God frequently swearing about Him. Turned out that he “used” to be a Christian but now did not believe the bible or miracles. He had been to a very charismatic church and as he had never seen any mountains thrown into the sea etc

Four Russians, the two girls spoke well and took tracts.

Polish received tracts in Polish.

Clement from India, a lovely definitely born again man.

In the afternoon met Hanah a Christian from Egypt, he came over on the OM ship Logos and now works as a cook.

Finish lady Una from Sweden who was a JW but none of her family were. Spoke for a while about why they should not rely on the Watchtower Organization and about who Jesus really is, then told her my testimony.

Swedish group of lads came by and said there was no God but when asked “are you sure” said “no”. I asked him to check Him out then. One took a tract.

Plus many others, Chris was very energetic and had many other short talks.

Beaches – As we are now living some twenty miles away from the main beaches, much of this work has been spasmodic, few tourists and

few cars. However, we have put a good number of tracts in the baskets of those that have hired bicycles.

Ministry/Preaching and Church work – Generally it **has been a disappointing** month, for several reasons as we said above tourist numbers are dramatically down. The earlier part of the month we had the joy of some of the Greek believers meeting with us. Most Sunday evenings in May we had no one, **and the last Sunday morning of May for the first time in 57 weeks there also was no one.** However, we did have the benefit of having two ladies that could play the keyboard which helped a lot with the singing. Alec has continued through the book of Genesis and is about to start on the first book of Exodus. However, it has been encouraging that many of the hotel staff on a Sunday accept us as part of hotel life, and again this month we have had opportunities with Maria, Irene, Nasos, and Georgious.

Greek Newspapers – Finally we received the newspapers around **the middle of May, 5,000 for our own use and 3,000 for two other islands.** **Chris and I made a** start last week in delivering them, concentrating on some of the smaller villages up in the hills. One village was particularly sad as it was full of old people, Alec came across three ladies in a row, one blind, one deaf, and one in a crumpled heap on her bed, and when I offered her a newspaper she burst into tears. It seems that only the Holy Spirit could save them from eternity outside of the Lord’s care. We must thank Chris for the splendid work in the hot temperatures. We hope to deliver the rest of the newspapers in the coming months.

Friendship Evangelism – Again with the summer season, much of this seems to have been put on hold. **However, Mickey that Joel met back in April** was on his way to the boat to pick up a packet from Rhodes, on his return we had a really good opportunity to continue with our discussion. Sadly Mickey is steeped in his own philosophies. However, Mickey left saying that we must meet again, and continue our discussions. One of the joys of this work is when you see God at work. **Attila who** we mentioned last month as having come to the Lord in recent weeks, we are now meeting with him on a **Tuesday for Bible Study and prayer,** and it is wonderful to listen to him pray, thanking the